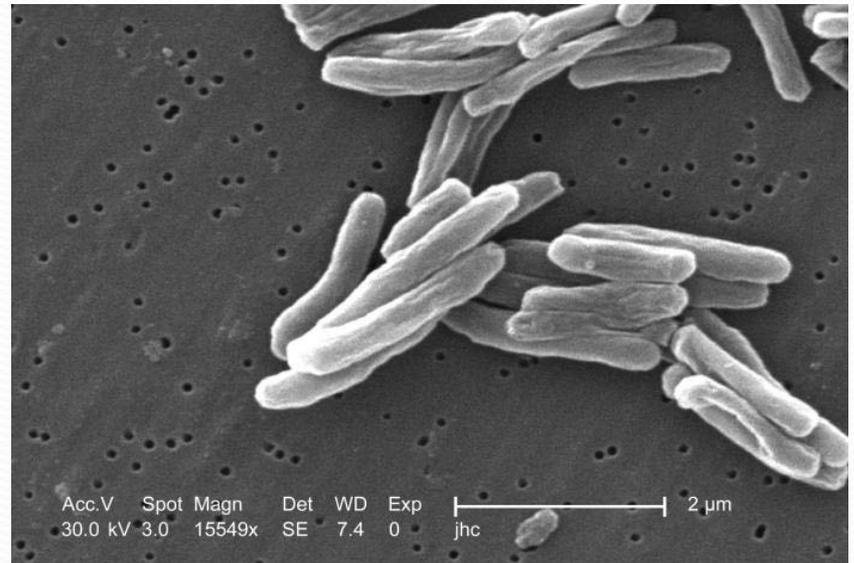


# Tuberculosis

## What is Tuberculosis ?

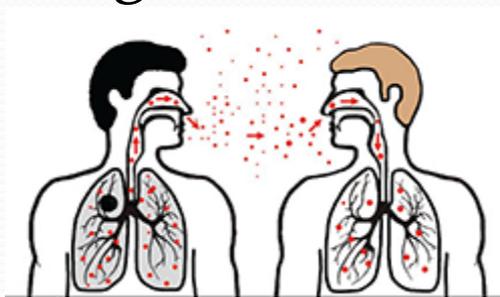
- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* that usually attack the lungs.
- If not treated properly, TB disease can be fatal.



*Tuberculosis bacteria: CDC*

## How is TB spread?

- TB is spread through the air from one person to another.
- The TB bacteria are transmitted through the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings.



## Who is susceptible to tuberculosis?

- Tuberculosis can affect anyone of any age but people with weakened immune systems are at increased risk.
- Not everyone infected with TB bacteria becomes sick.

# What are the symptoms of Tuberculosis?

- If the immune system can't fight the TB bacteria, people become infected with the TB disease. The symptoms occur two to three months after infection or years later.
- Bad cough that lasts 3 weeks or longer
- Pain in the chest
- Coughing up blood or sputum
- Weakness or fatigue
- Weight loss
- No appetite
- Chills
- Fever
- Sweating at night



- A person with TB disease may remain contagious until he/she has been on appropriate treatment for several weeks.
- An untreated person may become severely ill or die.

## How is TB diagnosed?

- TB skin test (TST)
- TB blood tests
- Chest x-ray
- Sample of sputum



## How should TB be treated?

- TB is treated with anti-tuberculosis medication.
- The exact medication plan must be determined by a physician.
- Directly observed therapy (DOT) programs are recommended for all TB patients to help them complete their therapy.



## How can TB be prevented?

- TB patients should cover the mouth and nose when coughing, and take all the TB medicine exactly as prescribed by their physician.
- Avoid spending long periods of time in stuffy, enclosed rooms with anyone who has active TB until that person has been treated for at least 2 weeks.
- Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) is a vaccine for tuberculosis (TB) disease.



✓ In the United States, BCG is considered for only very select people who meet specific criteria and in consultation with a TB expert.